

We claim: Claims

1(currently amended). Process for manufacturing expanded metal provided with a coating, **comprising: applying** ~~characterized in that the coating is applied to a closed metal foil and **converting the closed metal foil** the latter is converted into expanded metal only after **applying** the coating.~~

2(currently amended). Process in accordance with claim 1, **wherein** ~~characterized in that the coating is a coating that improves **at least one of the** adhesiveness of the expanded metal to an electrode material and /or the electron conductivity on **a** the surface of the expanded metal.~~

3(currently amended). Process in accordance with claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that **wherein** the coating contains **at least one of** graphite, or another carbon material together with a binder that improves the adhesiveness **and one of or** an organic **and** or inorganic-organic polymer, which is graphitized after the application to the metal.~~

4(currently amended). Process in accordance with **claim 1** ~~one of the above claims, characterized in that **wherein** the metal **comprises one of** is copper **and** or aluminum.~~

5(currently amended). Process in accordance with **claim 1** ~~one of the above claims, characterized in that **wherein** the metal foil is subjected to a corona discharge surface treatment before it is coated.~~

6(currently amended). Process in accordance with **claim 1** ~~one of the above claims, characterized in that **wherein** when the metal foil is converted into **said** expanded metal, **with a** the short diagonal ~~has a~~ length of up to 1 mm and **a** the long diagonal ~~has a~~ length of up to 2 mm.~~

7(currently amended). Process in accordance with claim 1 ~~one of the above claims, characterized in that~~ **wherein** the coating is applied by means of at least one of a printing technique, spin coating, rolling, application with a doctor blade, dip coating, electrostatic powder coating and ~~or~~ by means of a plasma process.

8(currently amended). Expanded metal provided with a coating, ~~which can be manufactured according to a process in accordance with~~ claim 1 ~~one of the claims 1 through 7.~~

9(currently amended). Expanded metal provided with a coating, obtained according to a process in accordance with claim 1 ~~one of the claims 1 through 7.~~

10(currently amended). Expanded metal provided with a coating in accordance with claim 2 ~~8 or 9, characterized in that the coating improves the adhesiveness of the expanded metal to an electrode material and/or the electron conductivity on the surface of the expanded metal.~~

11(currently amended). Expanded metal provided with a coating in accordance with claim 3 ~~10, characterized in that the coating was applied by means of a suspension containing graphite or another carbon material and a binder, or of an organic or inorganic organic polymer, which was subsequently graphitized.~~

12(currently amended). The method of claim 2, further comprising use ~~Use of~~ said expanded metal ~~in accordance with claim 10 or 11~~ as a current collector associated with one of ~~in or for~~ an anode foil and ~~or in or for~~ a cathode foil.

13(currently amended). The method of ~~Use in accordance with~~ claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising laminating together the current collector in said ~~and the~~ anode foil and said ~~as well as the~~ cathode foil ~~are laminated together.~~

14(currently amended). The method of claim 12 ~~Use in accordance with one of the claims 12 or 13, characterized in that~~ wherein the anode foil and the cathode foil ~~are~~ were prepared without using a ~~the use of~~ plasticizing agent.

15(currently amended). The method of claim 2, further comprising using ~~the Use of~~ expanded metal ~~in accordance with claim 10 or 14~~ in an electrochemical cell, especially a battery.

16(currently amended). The method of ~~Use in accordance with~~ claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the battery is a lithium battery.

17(currently amended). The method of ~~Use in accordance with~~ claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the battery was manufactured according to a technique that does not require ~~the~~ addition of plasticizing agent and its subsequent washing out.

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